

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8174

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 19132

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL

1. THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER 26 EDITION OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

BEGIN TEXT: AFTER NEARLY A MONTH, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA HAS STILL NOT DISCUSSED ANYTHING CONCRETE EXCEPT THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS DEPLORABLE, WHICHEVER WAY IT IS LOOKED AT. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FROM THE START THAT PARLIAMENT AT WESTMINSTER CANNOT GO THROUGH THE FORMALITIES OF GRANTING INDEPENDENCE--CONSEQUENTIALLY LIFTING SANCTIONS--UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN RHODESIA FOR THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE DEPENDS, THEREFORE, ON

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HOW LONG THOSE ARRANGEMENTS TAKE. IN FACT THE ONLY

TIME-SCALE WHICH HAS ANY VALIDITY IS MR. SMITH'S AGREEMENT TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL OF "WITHIN TWO YEARS. WITH THAT IN MIND, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD LONG AGO BY NOW HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING HOW TO SET UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND HOLD ELECTIONS.

THAT IT HAS NOT DONE SO HAS BEEN LARGELY DUE TO THE TACTICS ADOPTED BY THE BRITISH CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE MR. IVOR RICHARD. HE HAS MADE IT HIS FIRST PRIORITY TO KEEP THE BLACK AFRICAN DELEGATES PRESENT IN GENEVA. THIS HAS GIVEN THEM WHAT THEY HAVE WANTED--DELAY. THEY NEED EVERY BIT OF TIME AVAILABLE TO GET ON WITH THE REALLY IMPORTANT MATTER UPPERMOST IN THEIR MINDS,

NAMELY, WHO IS GOING TO COME OUT ON TOP IN A BLACK-RULED ZIMBABWE.

BRITAIN HAS SO FAR BEEN CUTTING A POOR FIGURE.

MR. CALLAGHAN'S POINT IS TAKEN, THAT BRITAIN'S ABILITY TO HELP IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON RHODESIA IS LIMITED BY THE WILLINGNESS OF BLACKS AND WHITES TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF INDEPENDENCE BASED ON MAJORITY RULE. THAT CERTAINLY APPLIES TO ANY QUESTION OF A BRITISH PRESENCE DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD. BUT IT DOES NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, APPLY TO BRITAIN'S WILLINGNESS OR ABILITY TO EXERCISE MUCH MORE POLITICAL INITIATIVE THAN HAS SO FAR BEEN SHOWN IN GETTING THINGS MOVING. AFTER ALL, IT IS A MAJOR WESTERN INTEREST THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PEACEFUL OUTCOME IN RHODESIA. BRITAIN REPRESENTS THE WHOLE OF THE WEST IN THIS, BUT NOBODY WOULD THINK IT. END TEXT

ARMSTRONG

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